Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 01305 220537Z ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 AGRE-00 AID-05 COME-00 /026 W

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R 220443Z FEB 78 FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA TO AMEMBASSY KABUL INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

SECSTATE WASHDC 2478

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CANBERRA 1305

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, EAID, AF, AS

SUBJ: AUSTRALIAN FOOD AID FOR AFGHANISTAN

REF: KABUL 1321

1. ACCORDING TO ANGUS MCDONALD, DIRECTOR, FOOD AID SECTION, AUSTRALIAN DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE BUREAU (ADAB) AUSTRALIA WILL BE FURNISHING AFGHANISTAN WITH 5,000 TONNES OF WHEAT IN FY 78 UNDER ADAB'S "BILATERAL RESERVE FOR EMERGENICES" PROGRAM. MCDONALD SAID SHIP CARRYING WHEAT HAD AN ETA IN KARACHI OF FEBRUARY 17. AFGHAN AUTHORITIES WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ASSURING OFFLOADING AND ONWARD SHIPMENT. WHEAT BEING SENT IN FORM OF GRANT AID. MCDONALD ADMITTED THAT AFGHANS HAD ASKED FOR "SOMETHING MORE," BUT MORE URGENT REQUESTS FROM ELSEWHERE AND FACT THAT THERE HAD BEEN LOGISTICS PROBLEMS IN GETTING ALL OF LAST SHIPMENT (1974?) TO AFGHANISTAN, HAD LED ADAB TO SET LIMIT OF 5,000 TONNES.

2. AS ADAB HAS NOT YET RELEASED THESE AND OTHER "BILATERAL RESERVE FOR EMERGENCIES" PROGRAM SHIPMENTS TO PRESS, THEY HAVE ASKED US TO URGE EMBASSY KABUL USE INFORMATION FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY FOR TIME BEING, ALTHOUGH AFGHAN AUTHROITIES MUST OF COURSE KNOW OF ESTIMATED ARRIVAL OF SHIPMENT BY THIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TIME. ALSTON

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